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Statement submitted by International Council of AIDS Service Organizations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Although more people than ever have access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, the Millennium Development Goal target of achieving universal access to treatment has not been met. Governments must recognize the important role AIDS responses have had on improving health systems and gains in other health and broader Millennium Development Goals, including improvements in maternal and child health, and the continued need to invest in integrated responses and strengthening health and community systems.

The post-2015 development framework must include a strong commitment to ending AIDS, including indicators that address mortality, incidence and achieving zero discrimination. The sustainable development goals, including the health goal must have at their core to leave no one behind, address inequality and the social determinants of health.

Promoting and protecting the human rights of all people, ending stigma and discrimination, and promoting equality must be central principles of all post-2015 development goals. Governments must ensure an evidence-based, human rights approach in all HIV programs and policies to ensure protection of the human right of all people to be free from stigma, discrimination and all types of violence.

Universal access to HIV services can never be achieved if groups most affected by HIV such as women and girls, men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, sex workers, young people, transgender people and people living with HIV are discriminated against, stigmatized or criminalized.

Discrimination, violence and abuses against and criminalization of these groups continue to fuel the epidemic and hinder efforts to achieve universal access. Not addressing this forcefully in the post-2015 outcome document will result in the resurgence of HIV, impacting on all development goals. Ending AIDS requires promoting strategic investment in HIV programming with key populations. Governments and donors must base their programming and funding allocation on epidemiological data, evidence of what is most effective, and human rights.

Governments must ensure that all people can fully realize their sexual and reproductive health and rights. To achieve this, all people must have access to comprehensive care, treatment, and services that are integrated, evidence-based, high quality, age-appropriate, free of charge, and based in human rights. Recognizing that women and girls are at greater risk of sexual transmission of HIV than men and boys for both physiological and socially constructed reasons, and recognizing that access to sexual and reproductive health services is associated with lower rates of HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights must be fully integrated within HIV programming.

Governments must recognize the impact that AIDS has on children, including the need to mobilize programs to ensure the elimination of pediatric HIV and AIDS and for a multi-sectoral community-based response to protect orphans and other vulnerable children. Governments must therefore ensure that no one will be left behind and address all factors of marginalization, including social inequality and inequality based on gender, gender identity and sexual orientation.